

THE JOHN MCKAY REPORT

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BRAIN DISORDERS AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Liberals are calling on the Conservative government to immediately begin working with organizations that provide healthcare services to Canadians living with brain disorders to determine how to best support caregivers.



Recently the *Liberal Express*, with Leader Michael Ignatieff and Public Health Critic, Dr. Kirsty Duncan, visited Baycrest, one of the world's leading academic health sciences centers focused on aging and associated brain disorders.

"The Liberal Party understands that to fully support people with brain disorders, we must also provide

support for their caregivers," said Mr. Ignatieff.

"While the Conservatives have done little to acknowledge the work of unpaid home caregivers, the Liberal Party is committed to increasing support for them and improving Canadian healthcare," added Dr. Duncan.

During their visit, Mr. Ignatieff and Dr. Duncan had the opportunity to take a virtual tour of the brain, as well as participate in presentations on transgenerational research and the importance of personal assistant devices for people experiencing prolonged memory loss. The Liberal Leader and Dr. Duncan also had the opportunity to meet with caregivers and seniors receiving treatment.

"Unlike this Conservative government, Liberals understand that there is a clear need for leadership in the area of brain disorders impacting the aging population," said Dr. Duncan.

This spring, the Liberal Party tabled a motion in the House of Commons calling on the government to adopt an evidence-based, multi-disciplinary, holistic approach to understanding and addressing brain

conditions, with integrated strategies to help those with brain conditions live to their full potential.

Organizations like the Canadian Cancer Society, MS Society, Alzheimer Society of Canada, VON Canada and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada have called for greater leadership to support family caregivers and home care.

Liberals agree with these calls for action and we have made it one of our main priorities. "We'll be working with these organizations and Baycrest to best define how the federal government can support caregivers and home care," concluded Mr. Ignatieff.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

549-D Centre Block, House of Commons,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Tel: 613-992-1447 Fax: 613-992-8968

Email: mckayj@parl.gc.ca

Website: www.johnmckaymp.on.ca

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

3785 Kingston Road Unit 10,
Toronto, ON M1J 3H4

Tel: 416-283-12 Fax: 416-283-7935

Email: jmckay@johnmckaymp.on.ca

Monday to Thursday 10 am to 4 pm
Friday 10am to 1pm (July & August)